

Record

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Frank Page elected new SBC president

GREENSBORO, N.C. (BP and local reports) — In an annual meeting marked by repeated calls for cooperation in evangelism and missions, Southern Baptists June 13-14 in Greensboro, N.C., elected a new president, stressed increased giving through the Cooperative Program (CP), and heard words of appreciation from U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice for their prayers.

The meeting marked the final one for SBC President Bobby Welch, whose "Everyone Can" emphasis set a goal of baptizing one million people in one year. The 12-month push began last October and runs through the final week of September, which marks the end of the SBC's church year.

For the second straight year, more than 11,000 messengers attended the meeting. The unofficial total of 11,639 would be barely under last year's total of 11,641.

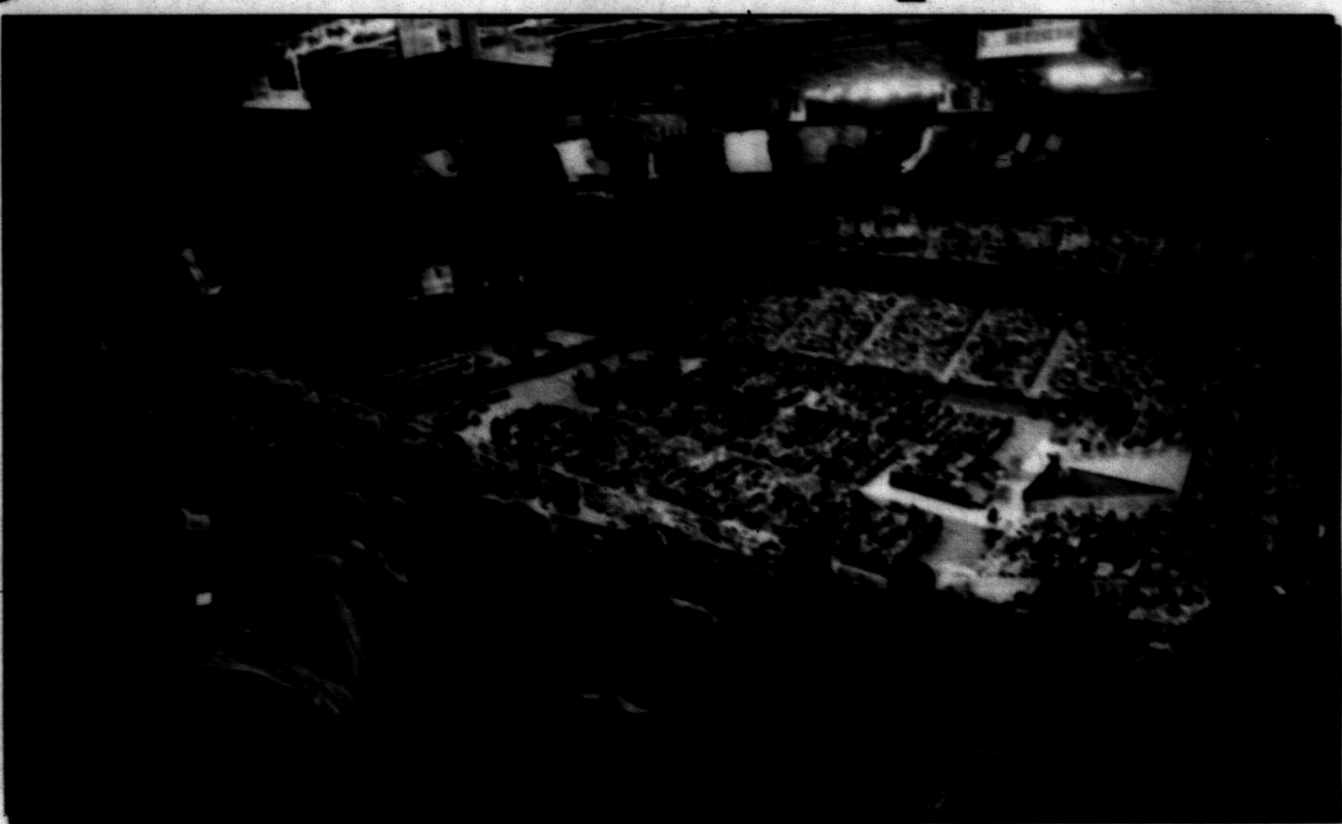
"We will baptize a million in a year. I don't know if it will be this year. [But] we could baptize a million this year if you'd get up and get out of here and go to work," an optimistic Welch said to loud applause on the final night, which featured a musical finale featuring the Bellevue Baptist Church choir and the "Everyone Can" People's Mass Choir, as well as some 75 large Scripture-themed banners displayed throughout the Greensboro Coliseum.

In what some considered a surprise, South Carolina pastor Frank Page was elected Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) president on the first ballot over Arkansas pastor Ronnie Floyd and Tennessee pastor Jerry Sutton. His election came amidst a movement in the denomination for a greater emphasis on Cooperative Program giving and in broadening involvement among conservatives in the appointment process.

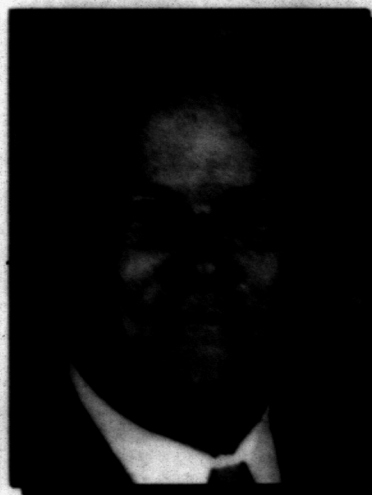
Page's church, First Church in Taylors, gave 12.4% to CP during the most recent church year, while Floyd's First Church in Springdale gave 27% and Sutton's Two Rivers Church in Nashville did not contribute through the Cooperative Program. Both Floyd's church and Sutton's church designated funds that supporters contended should be counted even though the money did not go through CP.

Page had 4,546 votes (50.48%) to Floyd's 2,247 (24.95%) and Sutton's 2,168 (24.08%).

"The people have spoken a powerful message, and one of the things I think they're saying is that we can do together a lot more and a lot better than we can do separately," Page said. "I think there is a clear call from the people of the Southern



SBC GREENSBORO — More than 11,000 messengers and visitors attended the 2006 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in Greensboro, N.C., on June 13-14. Messengers from churches affiliated with the SBC elected a new SBC president, tended to other business matters, and spent most of their time offering worship and praise to God. (BP photo by Van Payne)



Page

Baptist Convention that we want to strengthen our work together through the Cooperative Program [and] we want to strengthen our work together as we expand involvement to reach out to godly, conservative men and women who perhaps have not been utilized in the past."

He added, "I do not believe the convention elected me to somehow undo the conservative resurgence. That is not who I am, not what they've asked for, not what they want."

In making future appointments to SBC committees, Page said he would have four criteria: The person must have a "sweet spirit," a heart for evangelism, a commitment to biblical inerrancy and must be a "great" supporter of the Cooperative Program. At a press conference after his election, Page said he was "a little taken aback" by winning and believed this year's annual meeting could be a "defining moment" in the convention.

Messengers adopted a report from an Ad Hoc Cooperative Program Committee encouraging churches "to give an increasing percentage of undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program." The report also encouraged the election of leaders whose churches "systematically and enthusiastically lead by example in giving sacrificially and proportionally through the Cooperative Program."

Messengers defeated an amendment to the report that would have set a 10% goal for churches in CP giving, but the overall report emphasizing CP giving passed easily.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, the daughter and granddaughter of Pres-

byterian ministers, reminded Southern Baptists that as they rejoice in their freedoms to self-government, to private property, to education and to think, speak and worship as they wish, there are many people across the globe who do not have the same freedoms. "America embodies these freedoms, but America does not own them," she said.

In other noteworthy matters:

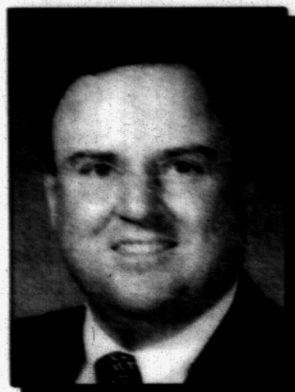
- Messengers defeated, by a show of ballots, an SBC Executive Committee recommendation asking the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) to reaffirm its loyalty to the SBC. The recommendation asked the 118-year-old auxiliary of the SBC to "reaffirm explicitly in [its] governing documents and promotional materials the WMU's historic, unique, and exclusive promotion of Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries" and/or "become an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention in a manner following the form of the other SBC entities and acceptable to the Convention."

- Messengers referred a motion to the International Mission Board (IMB) calling for an investigation of alleged impropriety among IMB trustees. The motion was made by Wade Burleson, an IMB trustee from Oklahoma and pastor of Emmanuel Church in Enid. Burleson has clashed with IMB trustee leadership in recent months over a number of issues. He supported the referral.

- Messengers approved moving responsibility for stewardship education to the Executive Committee from LifeWay Christian Resources. The move consolidates stewardship with SBC Cooperative Program promotion.



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Messages from the messengers

The book has closed on the 2006 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention — held last week in Greensboro, N.C. — and for lack of a more glamorous word, it was interesting for any number of reasons.

The worship and preaching were, as we have come to expect, second to none. Our ministerial education system and the experience that preachers, pastors, and music ministers receive in the churches of our great convention continue to produce some of the most outstanding leaders in Christianity today. God has blessed us mightily in that area.

This annual meeting will also be remembered for the messages from the 11,639 members of churches affiliated with the SBC who came to the annual meeting (after all, that's why we call them "messengers").

One message that seems to have been clearly delivered was that the Cooperative Program (CP) is indeed an important part of convention life and could well be a measuring stick to determine the leadership of the convention in the future.

Messengers elected dark horse Frank Page, pastor of First Church in Taylors, S.C., as president, choosing him over Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church in Springdale, Ark., and Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Church in Nashville. The CP giving records of their three churches most certainly played a role in the outcome of the election.

Page's church gave 12.4% of their budget to CP in 2005, while Floyd's church gave 27% and Sutton's church gave nothing. Supporters of Floyd and Sutton argued that their churches dedicated tremendous sums of money to missions and designated items outside the CP system that should count for something, but that idea seemed to fall flat with messengers.

"You can't spell 'SBC President' without a 'C' and a 'P,'" said Forrest Pollock, pastor of Bell Shoals Church in Brandon, Fla., in his nominating speech for Page. Messengers appeared to agree.

There were other factors involved in Page's victory — he grew up in Greensboro and pastors in nearby South Carolina, while Sutton and Floyd split the same political base — but concern over CP giving was high on the list of reasons Page was elected.

While Page wears his conservatism and belief in biblical inerrancy as badges of honor, he also told a group of reporters assembled for the post-election press conference that the first qualification for his nominees to SBC trustee boards will be a "sweet spirit." It was obvious that most of the crusty old reporters covering the annual meeting — including reporters from the New York Times and many other large secular news organizations who have covered the SBC for years — were surprised by that answer.

Another interesting development was the messenger vote on the motion from the SBC Executive Committee to "invite" the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) to drop its auxiliary status and formally join the convention as an agency. That has been a goal of the leaders of the Conservative Resurgence since the late Adrian Rogers said WMU needed to be "hard-wired" into the convention. The motion also called for the WMU to restate their allegiance to the SBC.

The vote on the motion wasn't even close enough to call for a paper ballot, failing by a large margin on a show of hands vote. What was the messengers' message here? It could quite possibly be: Leave the WMU alone; we like it just as it is.

Messengers also took up the issue of alcohol use, a controversy that continues to bedevil Baptists at every level. When the dust had cleared, messengers voted by more than a four-fifths majority to approve a resolution that calls on Southern Baptists to continue to oppose the manufacture and sale of alcohol — with the additional stipulation that users of alcohol should not be eligible to serve on SBC boards or be a part of SBC agencies and entities.

However, some of the debate on the issue was most unsettling. Benjamin Cole, pastor of Parkview Church in Arlington, Texas, warned that the SBC was in danger of adopting "a position that is contrary to what the Bible teaches in the flexibility of the scriptural admonitions as they relate to the consumption of alcoholic beverages."

"Christ turned water into wine," said Tom Ascol, pastor of Grace Church in Cape Coral, Fla.

A strong voice put the debate in perspective. "While there may be liberty, we cannot violate [the admonition in 1 Corinthians 8 that] says our liberty can become a stumbling block. ... [T]he use of alcohol as a beverage can and does impede our testimony for the Lord Jesus

Christ. [O]ur leaders should take the high road in our walk with the Lord Jesus," said Jim Richards, executive director of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and a messenger from First Church of Fort Worth.

There was a palpable stirring among the messengers this year, as if they were restless with the present direction of the convention. With the two SBC missionary-sending agencies in turmoil — North American Mission Board President Bob Reccord and three of his top lieutenants resigned earlier this year after questionable managerial and financial practices were uncovered, while dissident International Mission Board trustees are pushing for a full-scale investigation of that board's trustee leadership — perhaps they have reason to be troubled.

There did seem to be a feeling that the winds of change are blowing. It's much too early to declare that a revolution is at hand or that the current system is on the verge of toppling, but one thing is clear: If the messengers to this annual meeting were restless, the people of the churches who sent them are also restless.

Stay tuned.

Bowlin to lead COSBE



The Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists elected as officers for 2006: (front row, l-r) vice president, Brian Fossett, Macedonia Church, Dalton, Ga.; president, Gary Bowlin, Harmony Church, Crystal Springs; (middle row) music director, Bob Smith, Farley Community Church, Huntsville, Ala.; pastor adviser, Shane Craven, Tower Church, Gainesville, Fla.; assistant music director, Leon Westerhouse, Hoffman Church, Birmingham, Ala.; (back row) parliamentarian, Ray Jenkins, First Church, Jonesboro, Ga.; secretary-treasurer, Margaret Allen, First Church, Edmond, Okla.; recording secretary, Carl Carrigan, Willow Point Church, Shreveport, La. (BP Photo)

Pastors gather for annual pre-SBC meeting

GREENSBORO, N.C. (BP) — Speakers at the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Pastors' Conference June 12 challenged their fellow pastors to reach today's world for Christ by making the Gospel the center of their ministry through a renewed emphasis on prayer and clear proclamation.

David Jeremiah, senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif., said pastors must follow the Apostle Paul's example to not be ashamed of the Gospel and make it the center of their church ministry.

"Some people say to me, 'What is your evangelism program?' I say, 'I don't have a clue, I just preach God's Word and people get saved,'" Jeremiah said. "The reason people get saved is because at the center of God's holy Word is the Gospel, which is the power of salvation. We need to strip everything else away and get back to the basics, get back to the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Jeremiah was joined by Ed Young, senior pastor of Second Church in Houston; Nelson Searcy, lead pastor of The Journey in New York City; Erwin McManus, lead pastor of Mosaic Church in Los Angeles; Kerry Shook, lead pastor of Fellowship of The Woodlands in The Woodlands, Texas; and Tony Evans, senior pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas.

Young noted that many Christians in America are unable to say they are not ashamed of the Gospel for several reasons.

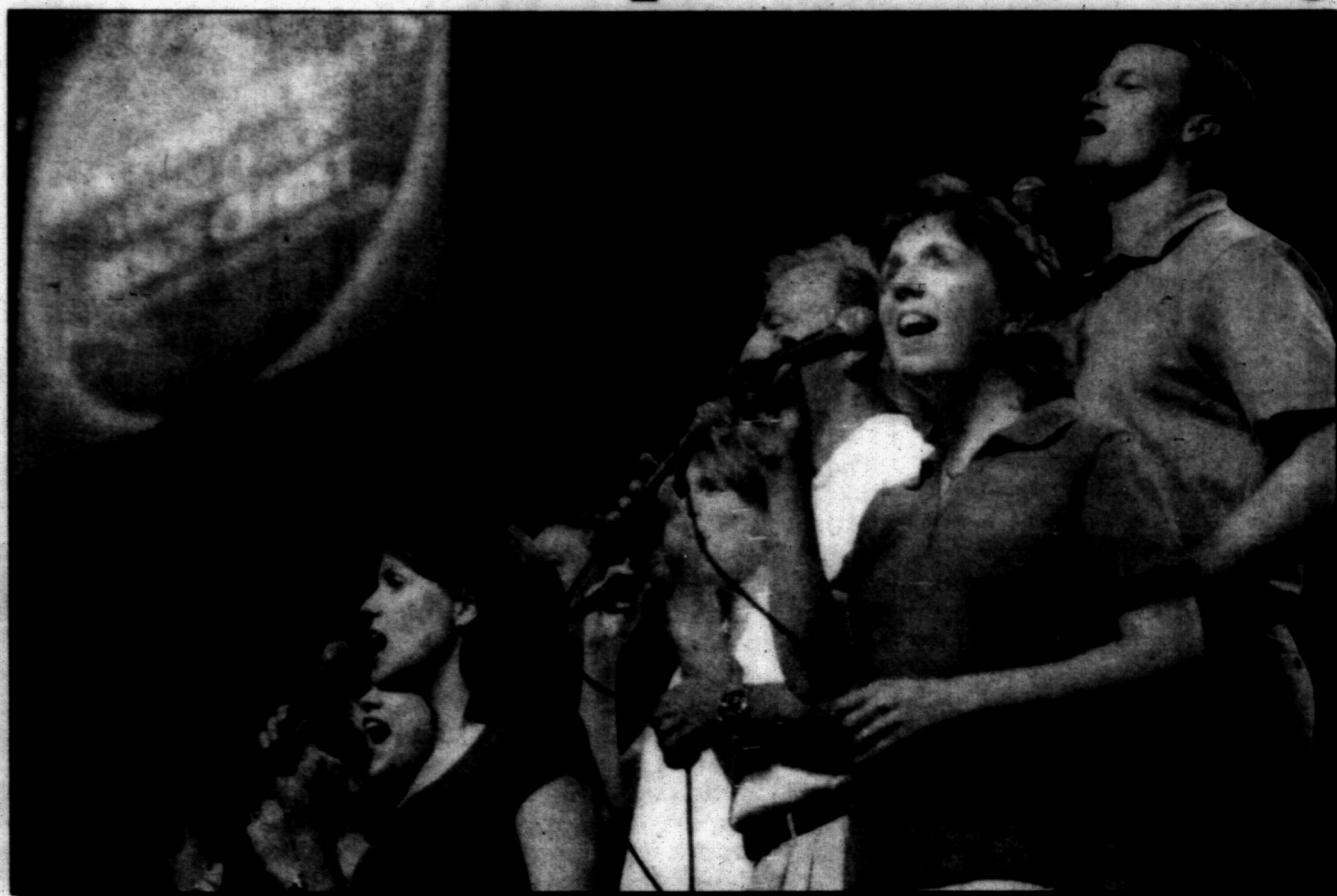
"Some Christians are ashamed of the Gospel for social reasons, some for philosophical reasons and sometimes we are ashamed of the Gospel in our culture because of political correctness," Young said. "Sometimes in our culture when we are trying to please everyone we marginalize the Gospel instead of making it the main point of our conversation."

Young voiced concern that Southern Baptists have forgotten who they are and don't know where they are going because they have gotten distracted by issues secondary to the Gospel.

"I believe that we as Southern Baptists are on way too many side streets in our churches at this moment in our life, because we have forgotten who we are," Young said. "We believe in the inerrancy of the Bible, the virgin birth, substitutionary atonement, death, bodily resurrection, ascension and second coming of Jesus Christ. That is who we are as Southern Baptists."

Young said Southern Baptists won the battle over theology years ago and should not become overly focused on secondary theological issues.

"We are not Calvinists and we are not Armenians, we are Baptists," Young said. "We have always come down in the



VOICES OF PRAISE — The Impact Team from Johnson Ferry Church in Marietta, Ga., sings during the first session of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference June 11 at the Greensboro Coliseum in Greensboro, N.C. The pastors' meeting preceded the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 13-14 in Greensboro. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

middle. That is who we are theologically. We are a Great Commission denomination."

Searcy challenged pastors to embrace the high responsibility of training church members to share the Gospel to people outside the church. "God has entrusted pastors to be the equippers of those on the inside [of the church] so that they may effectively reach those on the outside," Searcy said.

Speaking from Colossians 4, Searcy challenged pastors to pray with confidence, preach with clarity and prepare with care as they lead their churches.

To reach a lost world with the Gospel, Searcy added, pastors must teach their church members to pray. "We must lead our churches to be churches of prayer, fervently praying that those on the outside may become part of the people on the inside," he said. "The greatest resource that we have as Christians in reaching today's world is the spiritual resource of prayer."

Evans urged pastors to avoid distractions that keep them from reaching the world for Christ. "If you don't know what you're here for, there are a lot of voices out there to distract you," Evans said. By developing a mindset focused on eternity and learning to number their days, he said pastors will stay focused on the "big picture" of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

McManus used the account of Paul on Mars Hill to emphasize the importance of sharing the Gospel in a culturally relevant way. McManus said today's generations live in a modern-day Mars Hill, surrounded by people who believe in many gods

and called to help them know the "unknown God" of Acts 17, who is the one true God.

"The church isn't here for us. We are the church and we are here for the world. We need to become prophets of the unknown God. We must be the ones who say, 'We have seen the invisible, we have experienced the unimaginable and we are here to tell you that what you do not know can be known.' ... God is the unknown God, but He is not the unknowable God."

Like McManus, Shook also emphasized the importance of being culturally relevant in sharing the Gospel.

"We have to wake up and realize we are now missionaries in a foreign culture," Shook said, "and just as a missionary has to be trained in the language before they go overseas to minister, we need to be trained in the language of the unchurched so we can share the never-changing message of the Gospel in their language, so they can understand it."

The evening session included a testimony from Joyce Rogers, widow of longtime Bellevue Baptist Church pastor Adrian Rogers, as she spoke about the help and hope she has found in Jesus since her husband of 54 years died last November.

Her testimony preceded a video tribute to the three-time president (1979, 1986 and 1987) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) who may be best remembered for his leadership in the conservative resurgence, the movement in which Southern Baptists elected a series of conservative leaders in response to evidence of theological liberalism within the denomination's seminaries and entities.

Elected as Pastors' Conference officers for 2007 were Hayes Wicker, pastor of First Church in Naples, Fla.; vice president, Kevin Ezell, pastor of Highview Church in Louisville, Ky.; and Joe Taylor, pastor of South Reno Church in Reno, Nev.

Looking back

10 years ago

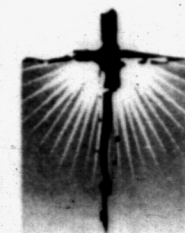
A special committee of the Mississippi WMU retains architect Larry Sones of Brandon and directs him to conduct a study on the feasibility of a new adult lodge facility at Camp Garaywa in Clinton.

20 years ago

Jerry E. Oswalt, a Starkville native serving as director of missions for Baldwin Association in Silverhill, Ala., is elected associate professor of preaching at New Orleans Seminary. He holds both masters and doctoral degrees from the seminary.

60 years ago

Victor Kaneubbe, Choctaw Indian of Oklahoma City and a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, arrives in Mississippi to help Baptists with their work among the state's growing Choctaw Indian ministries.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

**THE SECOND
FRONT PAGE**

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YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

ONE AT A TIME

Two precious little girls somewhere around the age of first-graders were riding their bikes out in front of my house. They were having a fun time and just jabbering away. They were oblivious to the fact that I was working in the yard. Apparently, one of the little girls had just had her training wheels removed from her bicycle. She was doing fine but not as confident as the other little girl. The one who apparently had been riding longer said to her friend, "I thought that I never would be able to ride without my training wheels. I thought I would have to keep them on forever." Her friend, who was still trying to adjust to no training wheels, had little to say because apparently she was wondering if she was going to be able to keep up the work of riding without the wheels. After circling around in the street, they moved on down the way on with the journey of life.

Though they were gone their conversation stayed with me, and I thought about how difficult it is to grow up and to grow in the process of life from crawling to walking to eventually riding a small bike with training wheels and then reaching the day when the training wheels come off and you are on your own, balanced on two wheels, and moving ahead. It is not easy. For those of us who know how to ride a bicycle, we know that virtually anybody



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

can do it just given a little bit of time and effort — but for a five, six, or seven year-old, it is a major ordeal and a real test of physical dexterity and raw will. Once we accomplish the task, we look over our shoulder and think that wasn't bad at all, but that is a part of the process of life; not just physical and mental challenges but spiritual challenges are often even more complex and more challenging.

I have watched people go for decades unable to remove the training wheels from their spiritual life. In fact, I have known people who lived, died, and never did remove the support wheels. Consider for a moment three areas where the Lord may be trying to help you grow and remove the training wheels.

Have you taken the training wheels off when it comes to thinking? What I am talking about is learning to take critical information, an awareness of the situation, talk to God, and come to a meaningful decision and move on. I am certainly not negating the importance of spiritual counseling from others and input from people who can be

trusted in the Lord, but some people never learn to think, to reason, and make decisions on their own. Why is it important — or is it important — that a believer learn to think, process, and make decisions on their own? Two important reasons come to my mind. One is the Lord wants to work individually, actively, and personally in your life and for you to enjoy the experience of Him working in you.

The other thing is that there will be times when there is no one to turn to except the Lord at work in your life. You may not be able to get in touch with a friend. You may have to make an immediate decision in the context and need to know how to rely on the Lord to guide and steer you through the storms of life. Some people seem to refuse moving forward and taking the training wheels off so that they can be free to ride without something or somebody holding them up.

The second area I would ask you to think about for a moment is related to trusting. It is the development of the faith dimension in your life where you know that in what-

ever conditions you may find yourself you can trust the Lord. There is nothing wrong with turning to others who may bolster your faith, encourage you, and tell you that you can do it, but again there are those moments when you need to find that spiritual confidence in your life that though you walk through the valley of the shadow of death you can fear no evil for He will be right there. He will not only be with you, but He is the master of whatever may be in the darkness and whatever you may be facing day by day. When I say remove the training wheels, I am not speaking of removing yourself from trusting in God's strength and power, but learning that you can do that on your own.

One other area of consideration that maybe God will help you along the way to remove the training wheels is in the area of telling. I do not know the number of times through the years that someone has called me and asked if I would talk to someone about the Lord, to witness to a friend, or to share with his or her children. At the same time I was honored and wishing that they could and would do what they were asking me to do. Anyone who knows the Lord can share both a living testimony and a Bible based testimony of what Jesus can do in a person's life.

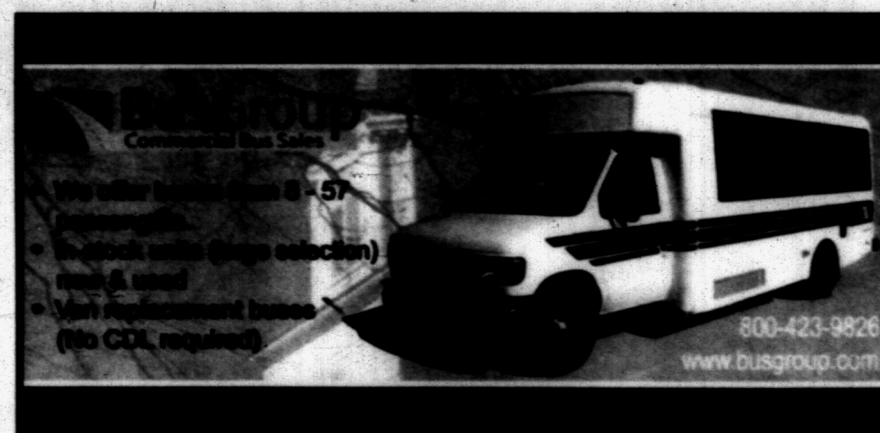
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MICHIE, TENN., SEEKS A BIVOCATIONAL MINISTER OF YOUTH. Please send resume to Bro. Brian Rainey, First Baptist Church Michie, P.O. Box 209, Michie, TN 38357.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MICHIE, TENN., SEEKS A BIVOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC. Please send resume to Bro. Brian Rainey, First Baptist Church Michie, P.O. Box 209, Michie, TN 38357.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 22, 2006

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For directions to the church
call 662-562-8503

FBC MCCOMB

AUGUST 29, 2006

No registration required
For directions to the church
call 601-684-2971

Schedule At a Glance For FBC Senatobia & FBC McComb

6:00 p.m.	Check-in & Fellowship
6:30	Theme Interpretation
7:15 - 8:00	Leadership Conferences 1
8:15 - 9:00	Leadership Conferences 2

Conference Titles for FBC Senatobia & FBC McComb

Advancing God's Kingdom through Missional Planning
for wMu and Churchwide

Missional Planning for Women Coordinators and Facilitators

Developing a Missional Plan for Adults on Mission

Ministering in Your Multicultural Jerusalem

Missional Planning for Acteens

Energizing Acteens through MissionsQuest

Developing a Missional Plan for Youth on Mission

Teenagers are P.M. People (McComb only)

Missional Planning for Girls in Action

Using World Ventures with GA's

Developing a Missional Plan for Children in Action

Using Special Assignments! In CiA

Missional Planning for Preschoolers and their Parents

Embrace the Christian Worldview in Mission Friends

Can You Hear Me Now? Understanding the Language of Poverty

Community Assessment & Ministry Impact

Breaking the Barriers to Reach Your World

Think MS wMu—Think Missions

Live the Call: Embrace God's Design for Your Life

Spiritual Journaling: Recording Your Journey Toward God

wMu Ministries—A Place for You to Serve!

CAMP GARAYWA

AUGUST 25-26, 2006

Registration required

Garaywa Schedule At a Glance Friday, August 25th

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Registration and Check-In
5:00 - 6:00	Dinner (served from 5:00-5:30)
6:15 - 7:30 p.m.	Welcome and Worship
7:45 - 9:00 p.m.	Understand the Call - Missional Planning Conferences

Saturday, August 26th

7:30 - 8:15 a.m.	Breakfast (served from 7:30-8:00)
8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Missionary Moments
9:15 - 10:00 a.m.	Embrace the Call - Conferences I
10:15 - 11:00 a.m.	Embrace the Call - Conferences II
11:15 - 12:00 p.m.	Live the Mission of God - Conferences
12:15 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch and Closing Celebration (served from 12:15-12:45)
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Church Missions Leadership Teams Planning



Debra Berry

Debra Berry is a ministry consultant for Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention. Her responsibilities include assessing the needs and developing strategies to increase missions education and involvement among adult audiences.



Mitzi Eaker

Mitzi is passionate about children's education and leadership development within the structure of religious entities. She remains a popular speaker at women's events. In her role as ministry consultant at Woman's Missionary Union, she enthusiastically shares areas of insight while reinforcing a commitment to Jesus and our children.



Jason & Courtney Barlow

Jason served with the IMB as a journeyman in a Last Frontier country. Jason and Courtney are currently in the appointment process with the IMB. They will be in Virginia for training in January 2007. Shortly after this they will return to Southeast Asia.



Wyndy South - worship leader

Wyndy serves as a contract keyboard consultant with the Church Department of MBCB in Jackson.

Deadline to register for meals and housing is Aug. 18th
www.mbc.org, click on Events, Woman's Missionary Union,
Church Leadership Training-Central MS or call 800-748-1651, ext 317

S P E A K U P !

Sunday School Super Saturday Conferences

Saturday, July 29, 2006
Calvary Baptist Church
Tupelo

Saturday, August 5, 2006
First Baptist Church
Clinton

Saturday, September 16, 2006
Petal-Harvey Baptist Church
Petal

Schedule: 9 a.m.-noon at each location

Each year the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board focuses on one aspect of

Flake's Formula for the Future

This year's emphasis is on

Evangelism: Be Ready to Speak Up!

"Proclaim the message; persist in it whether convenient or not." / Timothy 4:2 HCSB

CONFERENCES AVAILABLE FOR ALL AGE GROUPS PLUS GENERAL OFFICERS AND PASTOR AND STAFF.

NO PREREGISTRATION

ELECTIVES OFFERED AT ALL THREE LOCATIONS:

- Involving Parents in Preschool Ministry
- How to Talk to a Child about Salvation
- Youth Reaching Youth
- What Do I Do Now? Using Evangelism Tools
- Care Group Ministry
- OneWON! Evangelism Training

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2006 AT CALVARY BC, TUPELO

Preschool: Tracy Rogers; LifeWay Resources; Nashville, Tenn.

Children: Paula Dangar; Mt. Vernon; Atlanta, Ga.

Youth: Marilyn Bullman; Sharon FBC; Laurel, Miss.

Younger Adult: Darrol Hood; FBC; Frostproof, Fla.

Older Adult: Glenn Shows; MBCB, Jackson, Miss.

General Officer: Kiely Young; MBCB, Jackson, Miss.

For more info: Contact the Sunday School Department at

1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3291, or E-mail cday@mbcb.org

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2006 AT FBC, CLINTON

Preschool: Alan Wilson; Longview Heights, Olive Branch, Miss.

Children: Kimberly Harris; West Cobb; Powder Springs, Ga.

Youth: Marilyn Bullman; Sharon FBC; Laurel, Miss.

Younger Adult: Joseph McNider; Kempsville; Virginia Beach, Va.

Older Adult: Wayne Ward; FBC; Columbia, Miss.

General Officer: Kiely Young; MBCB, Jackson, Miss.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2006 AT PETAL-HARVEY BC, PETAL

Preschool: Jeff Land; Joelton FBC; Joelton, Tenn.

Children: Sue Harmon; SC Baptist Convention; Columbia, S.C.

Youth: Marilyn Bullman; Sharon FBC; Laurel, Miss.

Younger Adult: Kimberly Harris; West Cobb; Powder Springs, Ga.

Older Adult: Bill Hawks; Highland Colony; Ridgeland, Miss.

General Officer: Kiely Young; MBCB, Jackson, Miss.

- Materials and methods classes for all preschool, younger and older children's choir workers.
- Led by our state clinicians.

Registration: 8:30-9 a.m.

Conference: 9 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

No preregistration required

Cost: \$7 per person

All directors and teachers are encouraged to attend.

For more information, call the Church Music Department 1 (800) 748.1651 or (601) 292.3271

Note: Music Leadership, July 6-8, FBC Jackson will be the central training event.

Sarah Talley, Preschool/Children's Contract Consultant, Church Music Department



2006 FAMILY ENRICHMENT WEEK

CONFERENCES

- Children, TeamKID • Youth, Mini-Centrifuge
- Single Parent • Couples • Reclaiming Real Jesus

SPECIAL EVENTS

- ROYALTY (grades 1-5) • Spelling Bee • Battle
- Art Show (grades 1-5) • Crafts • Games
- Nature Walk/Hike • Archery • Arrowhead Hunts

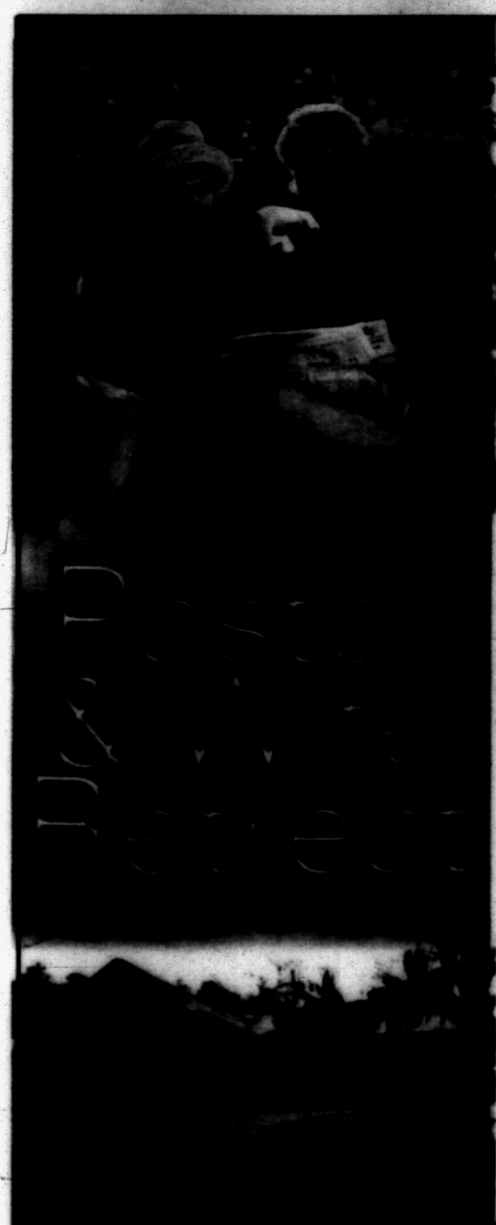
BARBEQUE COOKOUT
(Chicken, Ribs, Hamburgers, Hotdogs)

CARNIVAL

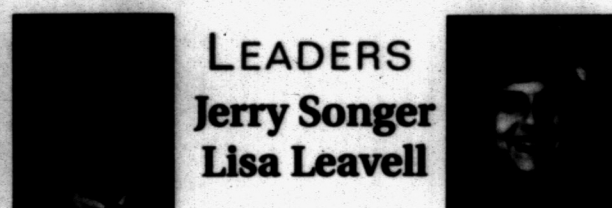
- Super Slide • Big Maze • Horseback Riding • Clowns • Games
- Canoeing • Crafts (t-shirt/caps/jewelry) • Space Jump

RESERVATIONS may be made by phone with a Visa/MasterCard, 601-292-3304.
PROGRAM INFORMATION: Contact the Discipleship & Family Ministry Office, 601-292-3284 or 1-800-748-1651.

CANCELLED



July 6-8, 2006 Camp Garaywa, Clinton



LEADERS
Jerry Songer
Lisa Leavell

RESERVATION AND REGISTRATION

Participation is limited to the first thirty (30) couples who register for this retreat. Patterson Place has 30 rooms with two queen-sized beds in each.

Registration must be made with the MBCB Conference Office. (Phone: 601-292-3304)

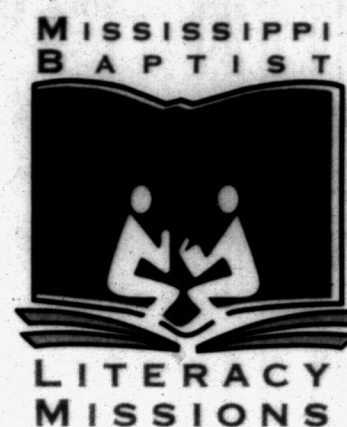
COST

For 2 nights lodging and 6 meals:
Adults: \$112 per person; Preschool through 6th grade: \$56 per person; age 2 and under, no cost.

There is no conference fee.

For more information, contact the Pastor/
Leadership Development Department at
601-292-3305 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305.

State Literacy Missions Conference



Crossgates Baptist Church
Brandon
July 27 - 29

Registration Deadline
July 14, 2006

(registration form on the Web)

Registration Fee: \$10

Manual: \$19 (ESL, ARW, TCY, EESL, EFL)

Meals: \$6 each

Track One - Basic Workshops

(Thursday, Friday and Saturday)

- Adult Reading and Writing
- Tutoring Children and Youth
- English as a Second Language

Track Two - 8 Hour Workshops

(Friday and Saturday)

- Experienced English as a Second Language
- English as a Foreign Language
- Chronological Bible Storying

Track Three - Seminars

(Friday and Saturday)

- How to start a literacy mission ministry in your church or association
- How to do a needs assessment in your community
- Culturally speaking ... what is culturally speaking?

Send registration to Paula Smith or Alicia Hatch
Literacy Missions Ministry

P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

For more information: Paula Smith, 1-800-748-1651,
ext. 336, psmith@mbcb.org.

REGISTRATION FORM ONLINE: www.mbcb.org

Pray this day for...

June 23- July 13, 2006

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Every person in the body of Christ is important for effective ministry and prayer is foundational. So pray that all will exercise their gifts for God's glory and expansion of His kingdom here on earth."

North American Missions Prayer-Gram by Elaine Helms

For: (1) James W. Phillips, Eugene, Ore. is the mission strategist for Willamette Valley Association. Pray for "Jericho in the Valley," July 8-15, to reach one million people. Pray for teams to come, to relate to specific churches, and to conduct outreach activities.

For: (1) Citizenship & Religious Liberty Sunday (CAC Emphasis); (2) Family Enrichment Conference, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, 2nd - 5th; (3) I Centrifuge, Mississippi College, Clinton, 2nd - 6th (LCR/SBC)

A Muslim-background believer in Pakistan took a trip to follow up on 13 phone calls he had received from men living in another city who had received booklets about Jesus Christ. They had already formed into three worship and Bible study groups. Afterwards, each group formed a house church and they were challenged to bring one more to the group in the next three months so they could become 26.

For: (1) GA/ Acteens Camp, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 26th - 30th (WMU); (2) Summer Mission Camp for boys, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, 10 a.m., 26th - 30th (MM); (3) HeartSong '06 Music Camp, East Central Community College, Decatur, 26th - 30th (CM).

Pray for boldness among both men and women in Dhaka, South Bangladesh who are Muslim-background believers to share the love of God and the message of His gift of salvation with their family members, friends and neighbors.

For: (1) Super Summer, Mississippi College, Clinton, noon, 10th - noon, 14th (Youth Ministry); (2) GA Camp, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 10th - 14th (WMU); (3) Summer Mission Camp for Boys, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, 10 a.m., 10th - noon, 14th (MM).

The Xtreme Team of South America writes: "Our team needs couples to come and be strategy coordinators, and Latin partners who will work with us. Pray for the removal of any barriers that would prevent us from working together. Right now two young men are ready to come and train with our team in August. Pray that God will provide what they need to come work with us.

For: (1) Independence Day, (2) The Camsa language of Colombia is unique and very difficult. Pray that God would enable Christians there to learn the language in order to share the story of Jesus with the Camsa people.

For: (1) Church Compliance & Financial Issues, FBC, Oxford, 6 - 8:30 p.m. (FS); (2) Give thanks for a training of house group leaders that was held in April among the Go-Land People of the Pacific Rim. Pray that what was learned will be implemented in each group represented.

A young local man among the Tunisian Arabs of Tunisia, is suffering from unexplainable physical ailments (possibly due to 18 months of imprisonment). Pray for his healing, both physically and spiritually. He recently received a Bible as a gift. Pray that stories of Jesus will come alive to him.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS, 5th - 7th; (2) Inner City Kids Camp, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 5th - 7th (WMU); (2) Join Mike Holloway, Goodlettsville, Ind., MSC missionary and chaplain for a truck stop ministry, in praising God for the new chapel at the truck stop helping to grow the ministry for drivers to share their needs, and for continued support.

Rick Martin, Binghamton, N.Y., ministry center director of Carroll Street Ministry Center, is also pastor of a church start, Freedom Fellowship. Pray for a larger building, and for the ICE (Intentional City Evangelism) event in August.

Sandra Williams of Lexington, Ky., is the director of church and community ministries with the Elkhorn Association. Pray for summer ministries reaching out to children in low-income housing areas through backyard Bible clubs; plus basketball, music, and creative arts camps.

For: (1) Children's Bible Drill Camp, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, 2 p.m., 6th - noon, 8th (D&FM); (2) Pastor & Wife Retreat, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 3 p.m., 6th - 2 pm, 8th (P&W); (3) Music Leadership Conference, FBC, Jackson, 12:30 p.m., 6th - noon, 8th (CM).

Scattered across northern India are the Mallik people. They are Urdu-speaking Muslims. There is no evidence that any of the 121,130 Mallik are Christians. Pray that they will hear the Gospel in every state where they live and that it will spread through them all across the darkness of north India.

For: (1) Lad/Dad Weekend, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, 3 p.m., 23rd - 3 p.m. 24th (MM); (2) Please pray today for Prime Minister Percival James Patterson of Jamaica (island southeast of Cuba).

For: (1) V Youth Camp, Raymond (Youth Ministry); (2) The Lenca Team writes: "We are asking God for a great awakening among the Lenca of Honduras resulting in impacting all of Honduras. Pray that He will raise up leaders in each Lenca community who will understand and respond to God's call to reach the most remote areas for Christ.

Recently Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa suffered a minor stroke and was flown to London for treatment. He responded well to the treatment and is expected to make a full recovery. He is a Christian and a member of Twin Palm Baptist Church in Lusaka, where he was baptized in February 2005. Pray that Zambia will become a Christian nation.

This summer, short-term missionary teams will be ministering through the Muslim world. Pray that each person will: (1) be a worthy witness to the love and truth of Christ; (2) recognize every opportunity to share truth; (3) treat every person they meet with respect and compassion. Pray for the Gospel seeds that are sown this summer to produce an abundant harvest.

The Korean Baptist Foreign Mission Board recently celebrated the centennial anniversary of the sending out of the first Korean missionary. In 2007, some Korean pastors and church members will be invited on a vision trip to countries where Korean missionaries serve to learn more about the mission work they support. Pray that many will commit to go.

Please pray for missionary Bunty Miller as she joins with P. to reach out to 30 Hindu families in an apartment complex in the community of Shallcross, Durban, South Africa. Ask God to bless the Bible studies already being held in that area, and that people in these apartments would join them.

MUSIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

First Baptist Church, Jackson
July 6-8, 2006

12:30 p.m. on Thursday - noon on Saturday

WORSHIP/GENERAL

Bill Hardin
Gary Hollquist
Benjamin Harlan
Blake Scafield
Jimmy McCaleb

ORCHESTRA

David Young

PRESCHOOL/

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Derry Billingsley
Charlotte McElroy
Kim Price

HANDBELLS

Leon Bedsole

Classes for

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

KEYBOARD/PIANO/ ORGAN

Blake Scafield
Larry Shackley
Gayden Sikes
Lew King

COST FOR THE CONFERENCE: \$30

Make check payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and mail to MBCB Conference Office, P O Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 by June 30, 2006.

For more information call 1-800-748-1651 ext. 267 or 601-292-3267 or e-mail palford@mbcb.org.

L. Graham Smith, Director, Church Music Department



2006 Senior Adult REGIONAL RALLIES

8:30-11:30 a.m. (Lunch NOT provided) COST: \$2 (at the door)

SOUTH RALLY

August 29, Salem Heights BC, Laurel (601-763-7571)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Don Stewart, Hattiesburg, former professor

Southwestern & New Orleans Seminaries

CHOIR: 'Fairview Seniors,' Columbus

CONFERENCES

• Funtime Conference with Clint & Jarvis

• Finishing Well as an Experienced Disciple - led by Tom Crocker, LifeWay, Memphis

• Raising the Bar for Senior Ministries - led by Glenn Shows, MBCB

NORTH RALLY

August 31, FBC, Batesville (662-563-7655)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Don Stewart, Jackson

Executive Director-Treasurer MBCB

CHOIR: 'Reflections,' Senior Choir, FBC, Jackson

CONFERENCES

• Songs Through the Decades - led by Eva Hart, Jackson

• Leadership Conference: 'Exercise! Why should we continue to exercise in our Senior years?' - led by Dave Smith, Minister of Recreation/Senior Adults, Harrisburg BC, Tupelo

• Finishing Well as an Experienced Disciple - led by Tom Crocker, LifeWay, Memphis

For info: Discipleship & Family Ministry, 601-292-3373 or E-mail gshows@mbcb.org

HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Bible Drillers, Cherry Creek Church, Pontotoc Assoc.



2. Senior Day, Mt. Gilead Church, Lauderdale County

1. **Cherry Creek Church, Pontotoc Association**, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown, front row, are Karen McLaughlin, Brian Ard, Lauren Ann McLaughlin, Amber Lewis, Tori Ard, Katie Robbins, and Jordan Montgomery; back row, Suzzane Montgomery, Kyle Robbins, Valeria Moody, Alexis Derrick, and Andrea Lewis.

2. **Mt. Gilead Church, Lauderdale County**, recognized its senior adults May 6 with a banquet sponsored by the BYU. Shown are the seniors on Senior Day, May 7.

3. **First Church, Baldwin**, recognized Geraldine Cunningham for 50 years of teaching Sunday School. Cunningham began teaching six year olds and is now teaching her third generation of students.



Cunningham

4. **Walnut Church, Walnut**, recognizes its Bible drillers. Front row, Liza Hudspeth, Crystal Marbry, Dillon Theil; back row, Olivia Robinson, Rebecca Robinson, Ryain Alexander, Johna Bryant, and Dylan Wright.



4. Bible Drillers, Walnut Church, Walnut

5. The Acteens from **First Church, Boyle**, delivered pennies to the Memorial to the Missing service at the Baptist Building, Jackson, May 13.



5. Acteens, First Church, Boyle

6. **Montgomery Church, Summit**, will honor all veterans July 3, following Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and worship at 11 a.m. Services will be followed by dinner on the grounds, followed by a special service honoring veterans,

including an exhibit to honor their soldiers. The church will also hold Vacation Bible School July 10-14, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

7. **Ridgecrest Church, Madison**, will celebrate Christmas in July, featuring the music teaching of Bridget Taylor, July 28, 7 p.m. and July 29, 8 a.m.-noon. Tickets are \$20. For information, call (601)853-1090.

8. **First Church, Oloh: Vacation Bible School**, June 26-30, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

9. **Franklin Creek Church, Moss Point**, completed its first annual Gulf Coast Evangelism Conference May 20-23. Five people accepted Christ, with dozens of others repenting and dedicating themselves to God's ministry. Brian Fossett, speaker; Shane Terrebonne, pastor.

10. **Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association**, is sponsoring a youth fundraiser July 3 with a hamburger supper at 5 p.m., followed by a concert by John and Candace Kennedy, Winston-Salem, N.C., at 6:30 p.m.

STATE CHANGES



Lewis and wife

Spring Creek Church, Philadelphia, has called Whit Lewis as pastor effective May 1. Lewis comes from First Church, Kosciusko, where he served as minister of students. Shown are Lewis and his wife Leanne.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
copyrighted 2005

J IBWA NBOZ UIJOHT UP
TBZ BOF UP KVFA PG
ZPV; CVU IA UIBU TAOU
NA JT USVA; BOF J TQABL
UP UIA XPSMF UIPTA
UIJOHT XIJDI J IBWA
IABSF PG IJN.

KPIO AJHIU:UXAOUZ-TJY

Clue: I = H

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Four: Ten.

Join Ronnie & Beverly Cottingham
for the TRIP OF A LIFETIME ...

9 DAYS TO THE HOLYLAND

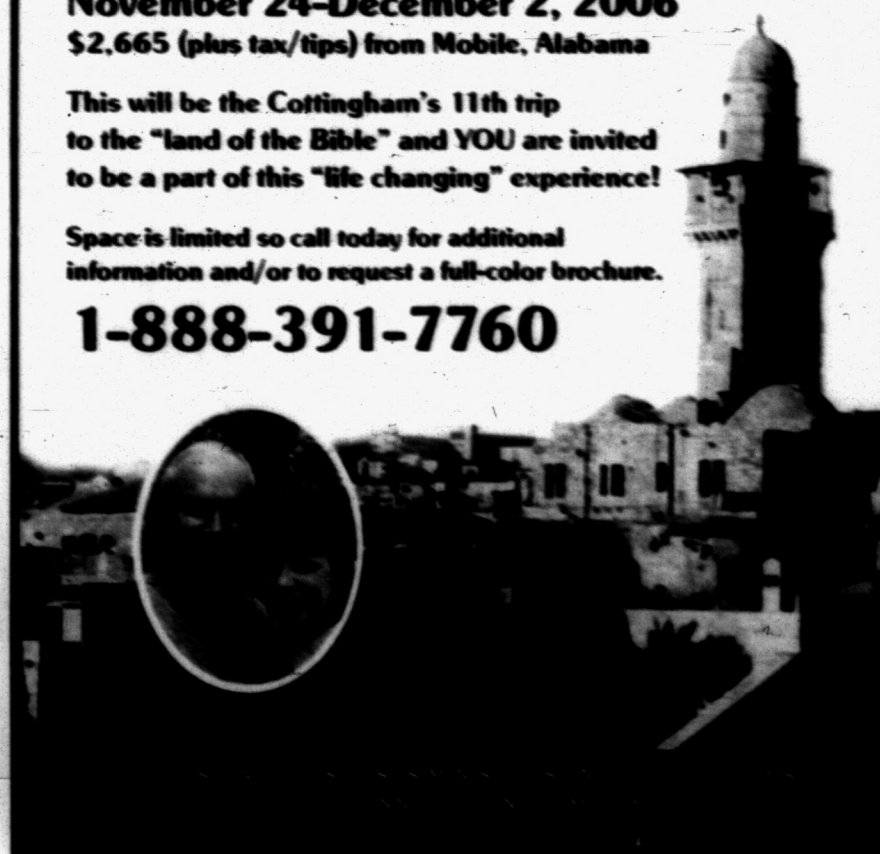
November 24-December 2, 2006

\$2,665 (plus tax/tips) from Mobile, Alabama

This will be the Cottingham's 11th trip to the "land of the Bible" and YOU are invited to be a part of this "life changing" experience!

Space is limited so call today for additional information and/or to request a full-color brochure.

1-888-391-7760



Broadcast fines to spike under new legislation

WASHINGTON (BP) — Broadcasters who transgress the federal government's indecency standards now will have to pay as much as \$325,000 per violation.

President Bush signed legislation on June 15 that increases by tenfold the maximum fine for indecency on television and radio. The Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act increases the maximum fine that can be levied by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) from \$32,500 to \$325,000.

During the signing ceremony at the White House, Bush commended Congress for sending legislation to him that will "help American parents by making broadcast television and radio more family friendly."

Indecency complaints to the FCC have grown "from just hundreds per year to hundreds of thousands" since 2000, Bush said. "In other words, people are saying, 'We're tired of it, and we expect the government to do something about it.'"

In 2004, both houses overwhelmingly approved bills increasing indecency fines, but differences could not be worked out, causing them to die when Congress adjourned.

The legislation does not directly affect cable or satellite programming. The FCC is able to regulate only broadcast radio and television. On TV, that includes such networks as ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



11. Daniels and Hamilton, First Church, Carthage



11. Watkins and Hamilton, First Church, Carthage



12. Randle Recognized for Service, Zion Hill Church, Union Co.

11. During the 125th anniversary celebration at First Church, Carthage, pianist Evelyn Watkins and organist Bonnie Daniels were recognized for their service. Watkins was presented a plaque in honor of 16 years of service and a combined total of 55 years of service in other churches; Daniels was presented a plaque in honor of her 38 years of service at the church. Shown are Daniels, Watkins, and interim pastor Eddie Hamilton.

13. Calvary Church, Oak Grove, recognized their senior graduates on May 14th. Shown are, front row: Kayla Turner, Debra Thornton, Ashley Keaster, Regan Rigney, Leeza Supran, and Emily Davis. Back row: Matt Norwood, Joey Davion, Justin Creel, and Robert Miller.

14. Pleasant Hill Church, Tippah County, recently broke ground on a new fellowship building. Shown, with shovels, are Lyndle Davis, J.W. Kellum, Larry Wilbanks, Gay Tatum, Ray Owen, and Ronnie Childs.

15. Mt. Vernon Church, Liberty, elected James C. Copeland as deacon May 28. Shown are pastor Clint Penabber and Copeland.

12. Zion Hill Church, Union Co. Association, recently recognized L.C. Randle for serving 50 years as a deacon. Shown are Johnny Epting, Breland Randle, Randle, Roy Prather, and Jeff Mink.



15. Deacon Ordination, Mt. Vernon Church, Liberty



13. Senior Graduates, Calvary Church, Oak Grove



14. Groundbreaking Ceremony, Pleasant Hill Church, Tippah Co.

Visit the Baptist Record online at mbcb.org

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Timothy: Faith Keeps God First

By Les Colvin

Remember the story of the "Little Engine That Could?" He managed to accomplish the difficult task of getting up the hill by repeating, "I think I can! I think I can!" At one time or another, we all need a confidence booster when it comes to serving Christ. Even when we know what to do, fear still creeps in. Whether it's teaching a class or sharing Christ, we learn it takes more than confidence in our own abilities. For the Christian, it's not, "I think I can;" it's, "I know God can."

In Paul's last letter, written from prison in Rome, he gives his final words of instructions to the young pastor Timothy. Timothy was obviously struggling and Paul writes to encourage him to keep God first in his life and ministry.

In 2 Timothy 1:3-7 Paul admonishes Timothy to recall his commitment to God. In the

midst of Timothy's struggles, Paul wants to let him know he can make it. He gives Timothy four resources he has at his disposal to be a faithful servant of God. First, is Paul himself as a praying brother. Knowing that someone is praying for you in the midst of trials can be a tremendous strength. Paul also lets Timothy know that he is a great source of joy in Paul's life. Paul then reminds Timothy of his sincere faith in verse 5. He tells Timothy that he has what it takes. His faith had brought him this far and it will sustain him for what he is facing now. Third, Timothy is reminded in verse 5 of his rich heritage. His mother and his grandmother were people of faith, and they had passed on a spiritual legacy to Timothy. Paul seems to be telling Timothy that he is not alone. There is a family of faith that is encouraging and praying for him. He is part of a great



Colvin

body, called the family of God. Paul finally reminds Timothy of the wonderful gift that is in him. He tells him to "stir up" or fan the flame that is in him. It is the picture of stirring the embers of a fire. Paul urges him to regain his zeal. The Spirit that is in Timothy and in us is described in verse 7. It is a Spirit of power, love and self-discipline or sound mind. Like several of the godly men of faith we have studied, the key to Timothy's faith and his ministry was the Spirit of God living in Him. We need to be reminded like Timothy, that God uses His Spirit to work in us to accomplish His purposes in our lives.

Paul continues to challenge Timothy in verses 8-14. In verse 8, he urges Timothy to share in suffering through the power of God in his life. Verse 9 reminds us of what God's power does in our lives. He saves us and calls us to live a holy life. Most of us realize we are saved through the power of God, but we often forget that it is also God's power in our lives that sustains us and enables us to

live a holy life. Paul then reminds Timothy to hold fast to the pattern of sound teaching that had been instilled in him. Through Paul, God had given Timothy the deposit of spiritual truth, the Word of God. It was important for Timothy to hold to that teaching and it is the Holy Spirit that helps him and us guard that truth which we have been given.

In 2 Timothy 2:1-7, Paul encourages Timothy to stay focused on God's work. It can be very tempting to be swayed from doing the work of God. Verse 1 says we can be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The same grace that saves us (Eph. 2:8), is the grace that will keep us and be sufficient for us in times of struggle (2 Cor. 12:9).

In verses 3-6, Paul gives Timothy three examples of what it takes to be successful in the work of God. First he calls on him to be a "good soldier." One characteristic of a good soldier is that he endures hardship (v. 3). The Christian life is a battle and is not always easy. We must endure through the power of God. Second, a good soldier avoids worldly entanglements (v. 4). The things of this world

can easily distract us from serving God. Our goal is to "please" Him who saved us and avoid the temptation of the world.

The second example in verse 5 is of the athlete. Athletes must be disciplined, train hard, and obey the rules in order to win. As believers, we must obey God and be disciplined in the Christian life and we, like Timothy will receive the prize of eternal life (2 Tim. 4:7-8).

The third picture is of the farmer in verse 6. Farmers must work the land and be patient for the crop to yield. The lesson for us is that God will bless those who diligently serve Him. As we plant seeds and water, God will bless and give the increase (1 Cor. 3:6).

To sum up these examples, we must hang tough, (the soldier), live right (the athlete), and work hard (the farmer). With God's power and Spirit working in and through us, we can keep God first in our lives and be effective witnesses and servants for Him.

Colvin is Minister of Education/Administrator at First Church, McComb.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Look to God for Wisdom

Job 28:1-4, 12-13, 15-16, 20-23, 26-28

By Ginger M. Caughman

Job says in this week's lesson, "Behold the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom!" (v. 28a). Let's ponder the topic of wisdom. God is holy and awesome, inspiring reverence (Psalm 111:9-10).

God has included these five books of "Poetry and Wisdom" in the Holy Bible to guide our Christian lives: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs (Solomon). Can you name the five books?

Consider these words of Scripture: "To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding ... The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Prov. 1:2,7a). "The Lord gives wisdom, and from His mouth come knowledge and understanding" (Prov. 2:6 NIV). "If any of you lacks

wisdom, let him ask of God who gives to all generously" (James 1:5).

Bible scholar Harry Hunt, Jr., Southwestern Seminary professor, helps us with three basic definitions of wisdom. "First, wisdom is considered by many to be simply the art of learning how to succeed in life. Second, wisdom is considered by some to be a philosophical study of the essence of life. (*Much of Job and Ecclesiastes seem to deal with these existential issues*). Third, the real essence of wisdom is spiritual. Real wisdom comes from God. Though wisdom will involve observation and instruction, it really begins with God and one's faith in Him as Lord and Savior." (Hunt, "Holman Bible Dictionary", p. 1412).

Israel had their sages or wise men. We all know that Solomon



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was widely known for his wisdom (See 1 Kings 4:29-34; 10:1-24). "During the New Testament era, the wise men or magi announced the birth of Christ." (Matthew 2:1-12). (Hunt, p. 1413).

Our Lord Jesus became the greatest of all wisdom teachers! "One greater than Solomon is here" (Matt. 12:42). When teaching in his hometown synagogue, the people wondered where Jesus obtained His wisdom (Matt. 13:54-55 and Mark 6:2).

Job's friends Eliphaz and Bildad each give a third round of speeches after which comes Job's beautiful hymn about wisdom.

Have you noticed how beautiful and poetic is much of the book of Job? Note the poetic language of beloved New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary teacher, Dr. J. Wash Watts as he wrote about Job in a classroom text: "The poetry of Job is truly sublime. The poetry is used to reflect the flood tides of feeling, faith, frustration, and life-enlightening revelations of God that sweep over the soul of

Job in the throes of his sufferings and in the ecstasies of his victory over the doubts engendered by suffering. The poetry is set in a framework of prose." (Watts, "A Survey of Old Testament Teaching", p. 212).

"As Job reflected on the true nature of wisdom and his own place in existence, he concluded that real wisdom or meaning to life can only be found in a proper faith relationship with God." (Hunt, p. 799). See Job 28:1-28. In coming to the truth that man can only find wisdom in the fear of God, Dr. Watts says "Job comes to the heart of all the wisdom literature, and he portrays it in magnificent poetic figures" (Watts, pp. 223-225).

God reveals His wisdom to those who faithfully seek Him but that does not mean God will reveal all the reasons behind what happens to us and those we love. "The unlimited wisdom of infinite God is unattainable for limited, finite human beings." True wisdom for living is found in the walk of faith, not in having all our questions answered!

All over Mississippi this summer and indeed all over the United States, churches are leading children in Vacation Bible Schools using the motto, "Be Strong! Be Courageous! Follow Jesus!" LifeWay leaders wisely chose the theme to help our children learn how to follow Jesus courageously in the challenges of today's world. The theme "Artic Edge: Where Adventure Meets Courage" stresses application of Bible truths as a way of life described in the VBS Scripture: "Haven't I commanded you: Be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9, Holman CSB).

Are you facing Job-like challenges? Do you need wisdom today? Ask God for help through persistent Bible study and prayer. Trust God! Wisdom is the practical application of God's Word to daily living. Remember, we are on the New Testament side of Job and can live in the glorious truth, "Christ is in you, the hope of glory!"

Caughman is a member of First Church, Magee.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

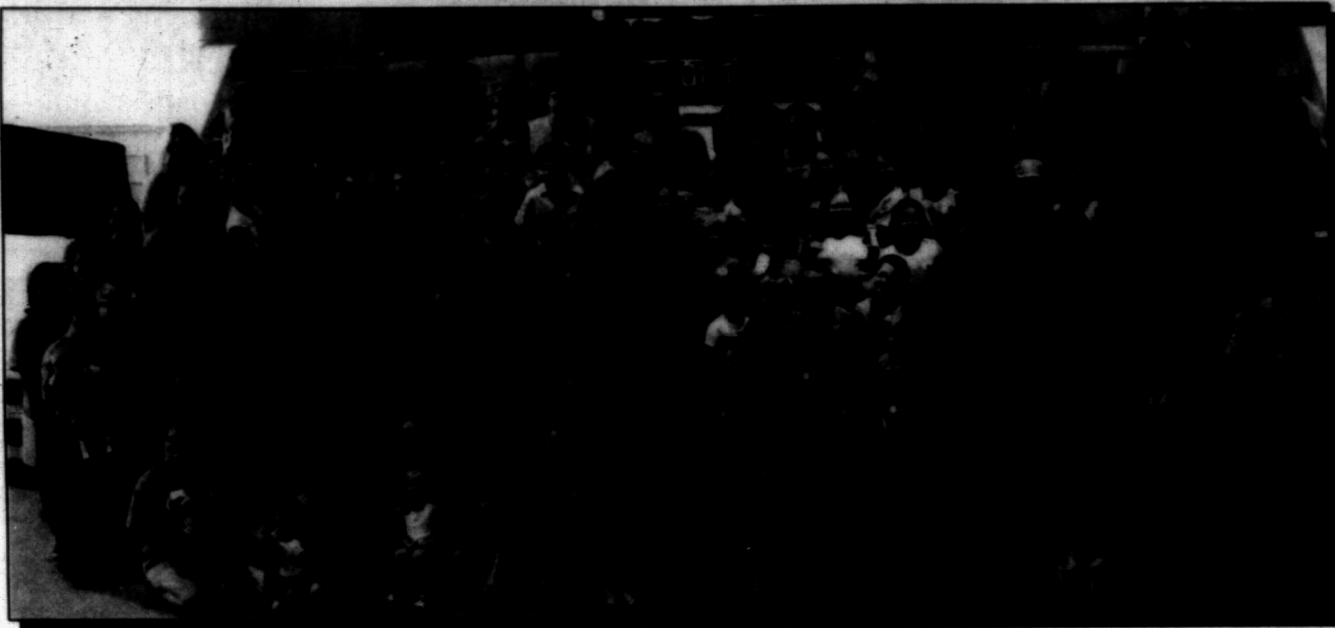
All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Record



1. VBS, Calvary Church, Oak Grove



2. Noteburning Ceremony, Heritage Heights Church, Laurel



4. Sanctuary Paid Off, Madden Church, Madden



5. Cooper Recognized, Lakeshore Church, Jackson



3. Baccalaureate Service, Lakeshore Church, Jackson

1. Calvary Church, Oak Grove, held its VBS June 5-9. Shown are the participants.

2. Heritage Heights Church, Laurel, burned the note on their pavilion June 14, paying off the \$57,000 project cost. Shown are church members who attended the note burning.

3. Lakeshore Church, Jackson, held a baccalaureate service for four graduates of Terry High School, pre-

senting each with a new Bible. Shown, front row: Erica Murphy and Kelly Mitchell. Back row: Michael Cooper, Zack Phillips, and minister of music Matt Leach.

4. Madden Church, Madden, recently celebrated paying off the note on their sanctuary. Shown are Danny Sephton, Wilma Hillman, Wade Moore, Tommy Jones, Gary Thaggard, Gale Gunn, and Jack Morgan.

5. Lakeshore Church, Jackson, recognized Bible driller Michael Cooper with a plaque and Bible from the church and from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for his nine years in Bible drill. Shown are Lillian Walters and Cooper.

REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

D'Lo Church, D'Lo: Revival, July 16-19; Sun., 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Gren, Columbia, speaker; Jeff Sanders, D'Lo, music; Robert Sones, pastor.

Dublin Church, Prentiss: Revival, June 25-30; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, speaker; Chad Douglas, music; Robert Cooper, pastor.

First Church, Troy: Community Homecoming, June 25; program, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Glen Davidson and Wayne Fredrick, speakers; Greg Herndon, pastor.

Friendship, McComb: Revival, July 7-9; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 1 p.m.; David Millican, McComb, speaker; Mike and Angela Britt, Brookhaven, music; LaVerne Summerlin, pastor.

Palestine Church, Harrisville: Homecoming, June 25; services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Grady Ross, speaker; Palestine Community Cemetery Fund donations to Angela Welch, 3415 Hopewell Rd., Harrisville, MS, 39082.

Pineview Church, Hattiesburg: Lay Renewal Weekend, "A Journey of Spiritual Renewal," July 21-23; for information, call (601) 584-7880.

Salem Church, Leake County: Homecoming, June 25; services begin at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch in fellowship hall. **Revival, June 26-30;** 7 p.m. nightly, David Nelson, speaking; Jeffrey Jones, music. Martis Jenkins, interim pastor.

Sapa Church, Webster Association: Revival, July 23-26; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; William Weddle, speaker; Nobie Ezell and Tommie Overstreet, music; Harvey Overstreet, pastor.

COLLEGE NEWS



Inducted Officers for Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society, Omicron Lambda Chapter, MC

The Mississippi College Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society, Omicron Lambda Chapter, held its induction ceremony Apr. 25. Officers inducted for 2006-07 were front row (L-R): Tina Magers, Secretary; Jill Mayo, Faculty Counselor; Teresa Jarnagin, President Elect; Lauren Lee, Leadership Succession Committee Chair. Back row (L-R): Deborah Welch, Faculty Counselor; Ashley Ramage, Secretary; Lindsey Stevens, Governance Committee; Mary Jean Padgett, Governance Committee, Chair; Sandy Robinson, President; Alice Austin, Treasurer.